

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 STRE-00 ISO-00 IO-13 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07
EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /140 W
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P R 281508Z APR 77
FM USDEL MTN GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2429
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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ACTION STR FOR MATTHEISEN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN, GATT
SUBJECT: WARMUP FOR MAY 3 SAFEGUARDS MEETING

REF: MTN GENEVA 1150

1. KAUTZOR-SCHROEDER OF GATT SECRETARIAT CONVENED INFORMAL MEETING OF KEY DELS APRIL 27 TO REVIEW PROSPECTS FOR NEXT WEEK'S MEETING OF GROUP SAFEGUARDS. DISCUSSION CONFIRMED THAT ONLY U.S. AND NORDICS ARE TABLING PAPERS IN RESPONSE TO AGREED WORK PROGRAM.

2. DURING REVIEW OF THREE SPECIFIC ITEMS -- AGENDA FOR NEXT WEEK'S SESSION; POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED INDIAN REQUEST FOR CHECKLIST OF POSITIONS; AND PROSPECTS FOR SUBSEQUENT MEETING -- U.S. SOUGHT (WITH PRE-ARRANGED HELP FROM CANADA AND NORDICS) TO RAISE PRESSURES ON EC AND JAPAN TO DECLARE THEMSELVES IN AREAS WHERE THEY CLAIM TO WANT IMPROVED SAFEGUARD SYSTEM. WE
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EXPRESSED DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT AND DISSATISFACTION THAT, NEARLY ONE FULL YEAR AFTER HAVING TABLED CONCEPTS PAPER TO LEAD UP TO DRAFT NEGOTIATING INSTRUMENT, WE AND NORDICS WERE ONLY DELS TO PREPARE WRITTEN SUBMISSION FOR MAY MEETING. WE WONDERED JUST HOW USEFUL AGREED WORK PROGRAM IN SAFEGUARDS COULD BE IF OTHER DELS WITH PROFESSED OBJECTIVES WERE UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO GO

BEYOND ORAL COMMENTS ON OUR PAPERS OR REITERATION OF THEIR PREVIOUS POSITIONS. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE, WE ASKED, TO POSTPONE NEXT WEEK'S MEETING UNTIL EC AND JAPAN WERE READY WITH PAPERS THEY HAD EARLIER IMPLIED WERE FORTHCOMING? ALTERNATIVELY, IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO SCHEDULE ANY FUTURE MEETINGS STRICTLY CONTINGENT ON CONCRETE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THOSE DELS. WE WERE RESERVING OUR POSITION ON JUST HOW TO APPROACH FUTURE MEETINGS IF ANY. THIS LINE ECHOED BY AMB. GREY OF CANADA, WHO ANNOUNCED HE WAS INCREASINGLY RELUCTANT TO RESPOND TO ORAL STATEMENTS WHICH DEALT WITH VERY SENSITIVE MATTERS BUT WHICH COULDN'T BE STUDIED IN CAPITALS.

3. UKAWA OF JAPAN SAID HIS DEL HAD "RUN OUT OF TIME" FOR THIS MEETING, WOULD MAKE BEST EFFORT TO PRODUCE PAPER (ON CRITERIA) ASAP, BUT IN NO CASE COULD AGREE TO SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS THAT REQUIRED COMPLETION/ CLEARANCE OF PAPERS WITHIN FIXED PERIOD BY A GOJ THAT "IS NOTORIOUSLY CAUTIOUS."

4. ABBOTT COULD NOT SAY WHEN EC'S WRITTEN SUBMISSION (ON SELECTIVITY) WOULD BE TABLED; HE DID HOWEVER PROMISE TO DELIVER "RATHER DETAILED" ORAL STATEMENT, WITH POSSIBILITY OF CIRCULATING IN WRITTEN FORM AFTERWARDS, BUT SAID GROUP SHOULD WAIT AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER MEETINGS NEXT WEEK AND IN JUNE "BEFORE ANY ATTEMPT IS MADE TO DRAFT A NEGOTIATING INSTRUMENT." HE RESISTED U.S. ARGUMENT THAT POSITIVE EFFORT NEEDED TO BRING WORK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON SAFEGUARDS UP TO LEVEL OF MANY OTHER MTN GROUPS, WHERE THERE WERE SEVERAL CONCRETE PROPOSALS ON TABLE.

5. COMMENT: A MAIN FUNCTION OF MAY 3 MEETING SHOULD NOW BE TO CONTINUE BUILDING PRESSURE ON EC AND JAPAN FINALLY TO PRODUCE THEIR CONCRETE IDEAS, PARTICULARLY IN POST-SUMMIT PERIOD WHERE EMPHASIS EXPECTED TO BE ON EVIDENCE OF MTN FORWARD MOTION. EFFECTIVE PRESSURE MAY REQUIRE INTERVENTION IN CAPITALS SOON AFTER MEETING. WALKER

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